

From: JMaggard@timesdispatch.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 1:44pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement.

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Byun Hung Kim for President...

Microsoft walked.

<http://www.salon.com/tech/col/rose/2001/11/02/microsoft_settlement/index.html>

No, Microsoft hit a home run in the bottom of the ninth with two out.

<http://www.salon.com/people/feature/2001/11/02/series_two/index.html>

Seems alot like our war on terrorism, the solutions don't seem to address the problem.

To stick with our baseball analogy, Microsoft reminds me of Pete Rose

<<http://www.peterose.com/>> . It's not so much what they've done, it's their refusal to admit

<http://reds.enquirer.com/1999/08/22/red_rose_sticks_to.html> they have done anything wrong.

The current anti-trust case against Microsoft came on the heels of a previous case in which they were found guilty. Strike One. Judge Jackson ruled them a Monopoly, with the appeals court upholding that claim and reversing the remedy. It's a high pop-up behind the plate, and the DOJ is doing their best Damien Miller

<<http://espn.go.com/mlb/playoffs2001/s/2001/1031/1271321.html>> impersonations. Strike two.

Then, with the count up on the batter, a lollypop over the middle of the plate. Home run. By the way, did you notice the lack of balls??

Next: <<file:///N:/page2.shtml>> The cage that Gates built... -->

The cage that Gates built...

As Microsoft evolves, there is a growing desire by Microsoft to control file formats. Certainly their control over their Office formats does more to bolster the Windows platform than anything.

Now, they want to move into the space occupied by MP3 with their proprietary

WMA format. If Microsoft is successful, it may be that in ten years you will be required to pay Microsoft to listen to a new album. More to the point, you may have to be running Windows to listen to music.

For all of those out there who cannot figure out what .NET is, it is Microsoft's strategy to turn the Internet into Microsoft's own version of AOL.

Microsoft can accomplish this due to their monopoly in the operating system market. As they change their operating system, they can continually redirect "The path of least resistance", by making MP3 hard to play and WMA easy to play. Want to rip a CD in XP? It'll be WMA format unless you connect to this site, research encoders, purchase and install one.

They will use Passport/Hailstorm to restrict access to the known internet if they can get their way. Want to do online shopping?? Please log in via Passport. This is to make the internet more secure
<<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/archive/20855.html>> they will tell you. As we have already stated in a previous rant
<<http://www.nothing4sale.org/rant/10202001/page6.shtml>> , Microsoft doesn't "get" security. They think it's something you add after the features are done.

They use their browser to add in non-standard HTML tags, or force you to write "incorrect HTML" for it to look like you want it to in IE. They use non-standard extensions of public specs and then claim the
<<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/4/22618.html>> competition is defective when it cannot render these obscure and undocumented tweaks.

Microsoft is so entrenched in these tactics
<<http://www.vcnet.com/bms/departments/dirtytricks.shtml>> , that it often accuses it's competitors
<<http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/archive/11074.html>> of doing the same. The reality of it is that Microsoft does not see any other way to play the game. If they do not resort to anti-competitive tactics, how can they succeed?? With Microsoft off the leash and back on the prowl, they may have a point.

Next: <<file:///N:/page3.shtml>> It just keeps getting worse... -->

It just keeps getting worse...

It seemed an unlikely%20settlement

<<http://news.cnet.com/investor/news/newsitem/0-9900-1028-7408520-0.html>%20target=_blank>

%20from%20the%20start,%20but%20one%20we%20had%20hoped%20would%20have%20some teeth if it was to be made.

Not only does this new deal not impose any real restrictions on Microsoft, but actually provides them with new tools to steal GNU <<http://www.gnu.org/>> tools. (OOPS! Did we say steal, we meant embrace and extend <http://www.salon.com/tech/log/2000/05/11/slashdot_censor/> ...)

From Eben <<http://emoglen.law.columbia.edu/>%20target=> Moglen, Columbia Law Professor:

There are [also] several provisions designed by Microsoft and accepted by an indifferent or careless government.

Sections III-D and E say that Microsoft must document its APIs within reasonable time, for ISVs [independent software vendors], "for the sole purpose of interoperating with a Windows Operating System Product." Not, in other words, to allow a competing Non-Microsoft Operating System Product to interoperate with Windows applications. This is designed to make it possible for Microsoft to deny information to developers of [free software like] GNU and Linux [who create products that are not designed solely to work with Windows.]

III-I(5) says that [developers and hardware manufacturers] "may be required to grant to Microsoft on reasonable and nondiscriminatory terms a license to any intellectual property rights it may have relating to the exercise of their options or alternatives provided by this Final Judgment; the scope of such license shall be no broader than is necessary to insure that Microsoft can provide such options or alternatives." Microsoft will use this to argue that code under the GNU General Public License (GPL) [which protects such software as GNU and Linux] must be licensed to it on non-GPL terms, so they can use the code in their own programs without having to GPL their programs.

What, did they have to strike clause 32i that states that every U.S. Citizen is required to pay Microsoft one-hundred dollars yearly whether you use Windows or not? Also note that the API's must be opened up a little, but not file formats.

Next: <<file:///N:/page4.shtml>> Burn all .DOC's day! -->

Burn all .DOC's day!

Nowadays you cannot apply for a job without Microsoft Word. "Please submit resume in .Doc format." Page 4 of this rant should be the part where I tell you to abandon the MS formats and use....

...and use...

And there you have it. What else is there? Name me an alternative to the .DOC format that is open and widely interoperable. Name me a slideshow producer that rivals Power Point with the same qualities. What is there??

Nope, page 4 is the page where I call out Bill Gates' rivals. Scott McNeally, Larry Ellison, and Steve Jobs, you all suck. You whine about Microsoft, but refuse to challenge them.

When Microsoft announced Windows NT, Sun should have shot back with the Solaris home edition for x86. Sun should have invested time and effort into a competing Office package, groupware, Something! They purchased Star Office way too late in the game. Now they want to talk about Sun One?? Microsoft has no plan, but one vision for .NET, while Sun has no plan and no vision for Sun One. Sun should have at least produced the definitive Java version for the Windows platform.

Sun is an OS company just like Microsoft, and they have let Windows take the lead.

Oracle?? Larry Ellison can't even fight off Gates, much less fight against him.

Steve Jobs sucks because he refuses to take the battle to Gates. Apple, if you are listening, port OS X to x86. Show the strength of the BSD codebase, sell it for 50\$, and mop the floor with Microsoft. So long as Apple refuses to port to generic hardware, they will continue to be a marginalized competitor.

These corporate entities are at least playing on the same field with Microsoft, and they need to state their challenge for Microsoft territory, and fight the ensuing war. Instead they play a game of punch and run, trying to be a David against a Goliath and hoping one small lucky shot can slay the beast.

Next: <file:///N:/page5.shtml> Microsoft Uber Alles -->

Microsoft Uber Alles

The Bush administration may have settled due to concerns about the economy, but anyone who's smart would get out of any stock that competes with Microsoft. They have carte blanche to run roughshod over the industry and by God they intend to. (Note: Actually, the real reason MS got a deal was due to Campaign Bribery. They weren't even supposed to lose the appeal. To find out more about your elected corporate shills, visit the <http://www.opensecrets.org/alerts/v6/alertv6_26.asp> library.)

Write your state attorney general, let him know you disapprove, write your congressman, write John Ashcroft, write President Bush, send <http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/134332634_microlob23.html target=_blank>letter after letter after letter.

The only true solution to this will be the opening of Microsoft formats and API's, most companies do this as a matter of need, they cherish interoperability. Microsoft wants to lock everyone out, make 'em surrender the keys.

I would like to see the government agencies at least move to open formats and API's for the new e-government initiatives. Force local, state, and federal offices to use only open standards when publishing and receiving documents. We should at the very least be sure that running Microsoft is not necessary for access to our own government. That would be unconstitutional.

Then do your own part at home. I don't refuse to send Word Docs, I refuse to accept them. I refuse to save my documentation in Word format. Send your resume in HTML format. Encode to MP3 not WMA. It's not about keeping Microsoft out of your life, it's not letting them become a necessary part of it.

Microsoft wants to choke the flow of information... Let it breathe.